



CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, California 95814  
<http://calfed.ca.gov>  
Public Information Line 1-800-700-5752

(916) 657-2666  
FAX (916) 654-9780

Date: May 7, 1998

To: BDAC Members

From: Lester Snow

Subject: Nature of Decision/Selecting an Preferred Alternative

The accompanying draft paper, "Nature of Decision/Selecting a Preferred Alternative", was presented and discussed at the CALFED Policy Group meeting on May 1, 1998. The paper acknowledges the advantages of staged implementation of the preferred alternative and presents some characteristics and example linkages for an implementation plan. The staged implementation must be designed with appropriate linkages to assure equity and stability over time.

The paper also discusses the nature of the programmatic decision ranging from making a single programmatic decision on the preferred alternative to an agreement to stage the decision in parts over a number of years. The CALFED Policy Group discussed this range of potential decisions and decided that a decision near either end of this range was unlikely. The Policy Group asked that staff and the CALFED Management Team further explore how a decision may be structured nearer the middle of the range.

Staff is seeking BDAC discussion of the key issues surrounding the nature of the decision at the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. This will, in turn, help guide the development of the Implementation Plan and decision support documents that will accompany the final environmental documentation.

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CALFED Agencies

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**California**

The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Water Resources  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
State Water Resources Control Board

**Federal**

Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service